

The American Legion Post 2 Knoxville TN

July 2010



From the Commander's Desk

By Ken Irvine

I have just finished my first year as Commander of Post 2. It has been an exciting year where I have learned a lot about the Post and what we do as Legionnaires. Post 2 is extremely active in the community supporting veteran's programs and youth programs. Our mission is accomplished by the dedication of numerous volunteers who work tirelessly and often without thanks or recognition. There are many people I need to thank for all the assistance they have given me during the past year. I will not name each one because the list would be too long and I would certainly forget someone. But you know who you are, and Thank You!!

As I reflect on this past year I also think about how I came to join the American Legion and Post 2. Before I joined the American Legion, I was already involved in veteran's issues and events. What brought the American Legion to my attention was that at every event I went to, there was one or more people from Post 2 actively involved. It soon became clear to me that Post 2 was a place I knew I wanted to be part of. So I sought out the American Legion and joined online. Next, I sought out Post 2 and was transferred into Post 2 just a few years ago.

My story is not unique. During the last year we have welcomed numerous people into our Post that have sought us out. While we are grateful these veterans have found us and joined our ranks- it also tells us that there are many more veterans out there that would become involved in the Legion if we sought them out. Each of us has friends that are veterans and qualify for membership in the American Legion. We need to reach out to them and invite them to join us at Post 2.

The American Legion has been a force for veterans in Washington over the last ninety years. The influence the Legion has in Washington is directly tied to our membership. There is strength in numbers! The first GI Bill, and its latest

Calendar of Events

JULY

- 3rd -4th Knoxville Zoo "Salute to Service Members" - Active Duty Military, National Guard and Veterans Admitted FREE
- 4th FOURTH OF JULY
- 5th Post 2 Monthly Meeting, Dinner at 6, Meeting at 7
- 26th Post 2 Executive Committee Meeting at 6:30

August

- 2nd Post 2 Monthly Meeting, Dinner at 6, Meeting at 7
- 30th Post 2 Executive Committee Meeting at 6:30

September

- 2nd Post 2 Monthly Meeting, Dinner at 6, Meeting at 7
- 5th Post 2 Picnic 1-4pm
- 27th Post 2 Executive Committee Meeting at 6:30

October

- 4th Post 2 Monthly Meeting, Dinner at 6, Meeting at 7
- 25th Post 2 Executive Committee Meeting at 6:30

November

- 1st Post 2 Monthly Meeting, Dinner at 6, Meeting at 7
- 11th Veterans Day Parade
- 29th Post 2 Executive Committee Meeting at 6:30

December

- 6th Post 2 Monthly Meeting, Dinner

version, would not exist but for the American Legion. The last two years have seen increased funding for the Veteran's Administration and a host of new programs to help veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Despite recent progress, there is still much to be done. The delays in the claims process at the VA have been unacceptable for years. Major reforms need to be made or the system will get much worse with the increase of claims to be filed by Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. The medical care provided to our retirees, disabled veterans and dependents have survived the recent health care reforms. A constant vigil must be maintained to insure that continues to be the case.

I challenge you to think about why you joined the American Legion. I further challenge you to reach out to at least two veterans this year and encourage them to join the American Legion. The mission of the American Legion is not complete. The passage of time depletes our ranks and we must bring in replacements or decades of progress will be undone. I know that no one in Post 2 will surrender what we have fought so hard to accomplish.

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING: JULY 5th, 2010, 6 PM @ POST 2

POST 2 LEADS THE STATE IN AWARDS

The 2010 American Legion Department of Tennessee Convention, was held June 11-12 in Chattanooga. Post 2 led the way - receiving more awards than any other post in the State of Tennessee.

Special recognition and thanks go to Marvin Tuggle and Joe Mazzola for their hard work and dedication which allowed Post 2 to receive the following first place awards at the annual convention:

- Post Consolidated Report
- Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
- Americanism & Children and Youth
- News Media
- Post Public Relations
- Scrapbook/Yearbook Contest



In addition, by winning the Department of Tennessee competition, the Post 2 scrapbook will now be sent to the national convention in Milwaukee to compete against scrap books from the 49 other states.

BOYS STATE 2010

More than 600 young men from across the state spent a week at Tennessee Technological University learning about government and citizenship. Knox County sends the largest county delegation each year and this year was no exception as 35 attendees representing fifteen area high schools participated.

Bearden

Forrest Dolvin
Forrest Dyer
Sean Dyer
Patrick Givens
Bradley Granger
Paul Varlan

Carter

Nathan Arnwine
Chiras Tailor

Catholic

Douglas Fair
George Harrison
David Valencia

Central

Carsten Haaland

Christian Academy

Ryan Berube
Nathaniel Donnell

Farragut

Daniel Bumbalough
Conner Schwartz
Joshua Zink

Fulton

William Love
Travis Tackett

Gibbs

Chris Griffith
Ben Mallicoat

Grace Christian
Davis Frank

Halls

Robert O'Connor
Grayson Hunley

Hardin Valley

Joshua Brown
Jeffrey Byrd
Tevan Lockhart
Clay Williams

Karns

Evan Fields
Jared Heyns
Josh Jensen

Powell

Austin Smith

South-Doyle

Holden Jerrolds

West

Liam Allen
Isaac Mobley

The Boy's State Program is run annually by the American Legion and is open to boys who have finished their junior year in high school. The attendees have demonstrated above average scholastic ability at their high school, have displayed leadership and shown a commitment to serving their schools and communities.

Tennessee's Boy's State Program is considered the number one Boy's State program in the country. During the week long program the participants organized political parties, established city, county and state governments by election, complete with primaries and political campaigns.

Judge John J. Maddux, Jr. has organized the Tennessee Boy's State program for almost three decades and has brought in top speaker to expose the boys to a variety of government and community leaders. This year, speakers included NASA astronaut Rex J. Walheim and Governor Phil Bredesen who addressed the boys for the eighth consecutive year, while the Tennessee Supreme Court went to Boy's State and two actual cases were argued before the boys.



For more information on the Tennessee Boy's State Program go to: www.tnboysstate.org

LEGION RIDERS OUTREACH IN COMMUNITY

At the 2010 “Proud to be an American” activities, the Post 2 Legion Riders operated an information booth to recruit and raise awareness of Legion activities across East Tennessee.



AL Rider Assistant Director Skip Kaelin, along with Quartermaster Rod Meyers and Sgt at Arms Don Plane answered questions and distributed legion information during the festival. Post 2 Riders also participated in the parade which preceded the festival.

On June 6th, Post 2 Riders also participated in the Tennessee Smokey’s “Salute to Heroes” pre-game program which commemorated the anniversary of the D-Day Invasion. The ceremony also acknowledged the sacrifices of the Gold Star Mothers and Blue Star Families.



THREE WINNERS NAMED

At the June general post meeting, Adjutant Marvin Tuggle announced three names were selected at random from over one hundred and fifty email addresses submitted and the lucky winners were Warren Ball, Don W Plane and Ralph Alexander.

As part of an ongoing effort to encourage post members to begin receiving electronic versions of the monthly newsletter and other selected information, Legionnaires were invited to provide their email addresses to have their names entered in a drawing to become eligible for a complementary one year membership to the American Legion.



In addition www.legionknox.org, Post 2 also has recently created a Face Book page for the Post – to view simply click the icon to access. This page contains additional photos and links to other veteran’s activities that may be of interest.

American Legion Membership Application

Post 2, Knoxville, Tennessee



YES! I'm eligible to be a member of The American Legion and I'll help my fellow veterans by becoming a member. I certify that I served at least one day of federal active duty during the dates marked below and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably on active duty.

____ My \$35.00 check, made payable to The American Legion is enclosed

The American Legion Membership Application

_____ (Name)			_____ (Phone)
_____ (Mailing Address)			_____ (Date)
_____ (City)	_____ (State)	_____ (Zip)	_____ (Post #)
_____ (Membership ID #... former member)			_____ (Dues)

Please check appropriate eligibility dates and branch of service below

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug 2, 1990 - cessation of hostilities as determined by U.S. Government | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 20, 1989 - Jan. 31, 1990 | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 24, 1982 - July 31, 1984 | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975 | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> June 25, 1950 - Jan. 31, 1955 | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 7, 1941 - Dec. 31, 1946 | <input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines 12/7/41 - 8/15/45 (only eligibility) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April 6, 1917 - Nov 11, 1918 | |



I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

Signature of applicant

30-009

Please return a completed signed application, a copy of your DD Form 214, or a copy of your active duty ID card and a check for \$35.00 to:

The American Legion Post 2
Post Office Box 14068
Knoxville, Tennessee 37914